



U.S. Immigration  
and Customs  
Enforcement

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# News Release

## **Wisconsin couple convicted on human trafficking charges** *Brookfield couple held victim in servitude for 19 years*

MILWAUKEE — A Brookfield couple that kept a domestic servant in their home under conditions of servitude for 19 years was convicted Friday on human trafficking charges. This conviction was the result of an investigation by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement.

A jury returned guilty verdicts May 26 on all counts against three members of a Brookfield family for human trafficking. Jefferson Sr. and Elnora Calimlim, both doctors in Milwaukee, were charged with using threats of serious harm and physical restraint to coerce a 40-year-old Filipino woman to serve as their domestic servant for 19 years. The indictment also charged the couple and their son, Jefferson Jr., with alien harboring for financial gain. Jefferson Jr. was also charged with making false material statements to federal officials.

At trial, the government proved that from 1985 through Sept. 29, 2004, the defendants employed a female Filipino national as a domestic worker who was responsible for caring for the Calimlim children, cleaning the house and preparing the family meals. The Filipino woman lived at the Calimlim residence and was promised a salary that would be “kept in an account.” She was working to send money home to her family in the Philippines. However, she did not have access to the account or know its whereabouts. For 19 years, Jefferson Sr. and Elnora Calimlim coerced the victim to work long hours, seven days a week as their domestic servant for little money.

The Calimlims threatened the victim with deportation and imprisonment if she disobeyed them, and kept her inside of their home, not allowing her to socialize, communicate freely with the outside world, or leave the house unsupervised. The victim was required to hide in her basement bedroom whenever non-family members were present in the house.

The case against the Calimlins was initiated from a call made to ICE's national hotline (866-347-2423). ICE law enforcement personnel staff the hotline around the clock to take leads from the public about suspicious activity or reports of crimes. Leads generated from hotline calls have resulted in the arrests of a wide range of criminals, including aggravated felons, smugglers, fugitives, sexual predators and aliens who have re-entered the country after being deported.

"It is a basic and fundamental human right to be free, and no person should ever be forced to live in a world of fear, virtual isolation and servitude," said Brian Falvey, resident agent-in-charge of the Milwaukee ICE office. "Today's conviction is a testament to our solemn commitment to protect those who cannot protect themselves. The exploitation of the illegal work force is modern-day slavery, and ICE will aggressively investigate those who engage in trafficking human beings."

Jefferson Sr. and Elnora Calimlim each face a maximum sentence of 65 years in prison, mandatory restitution, and \$1.25 million in fines. Jefferson Calimlim Jr. faces up to five years in prison, restitution, and \$250,000 in fines. The government is also seeking forfeiture of the Calimlins' house as an instrumentality of the crime.

The Federal Bureau of Investigation assisted ICE in this investigation. The case was jointly prosecuted by Trial Attorney Susan L. French of the Civil Rights Division, and Assistant U.S. Attorney Tracy M. Johnson.

# ICE #

*U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement was established in March 2003 as the largest investigative arm of the Department of Homeland Security. ICE is comprised of four integrated divisions that form a 21st century law enforcement agency with broad responsibilities for a number of key homeland security priorities.*